

WMSHC  
General Meeting  
Sunday, January 23, 2000  
5:30 p.m.  
Helen Hills Hills Chapel

## Minutes

Meeting began with singing.

In Attendance: Cath Oss, Kshama Ananthapura, Laura Timmerman, Phil Wisor, Jeff Colby, Eric Morgan, Kitty Kagay, Sheila Kelley, Linda Shea, Kelsey Wessel, Eliza Cavanaugh, Jack Goodell, Heather Kahn, Allison Schofield, Kate Richardson, Kara Morin, Laura Clawson

### I. Opening Comments

The meeting was brought to order by the Chair, Cath Oss. A call was given to remain focused and "on topic" throughout.

A request for last years records was made to help with the business of conducting the convention. The Chair agreed to provide these as necessary.

### II. Treasury Report and the Status of the Organization – Jeff Colby

#### A. Money

1. WMSHC currently has \$1120
2. Recording made in Georgia will give WMSHC \$2,000 in advance of royalties.
3. This is a significant amount of money in advance of the convention

#### B. Non Profit Status

1. The previously discussed association with the Folk Alliance was brought into question. At issue was the actual benefit of being granted early non-profit status.

2. The Executive Committee announced the association with the Folk Alliance will not be pursued because:

a) WMSHC may not need to worry about tax-exempt status immediately because receipts should total less than \$5,000.

b) The status of the organization may be unduly compromised in terms of applying for non-profit status with the government.

3. The cost to apply for non-profit status with the government is \$150 and WMSHC should have that status by Fall.

4. One concern is that other businesses may be reluctant to donate goods without an assurance that WMSHC is a non-profit organization.

5. The Vice-Chair pointed out that the course of action to not associate with the Folk Alliance is cleaner both morally and legally.

III. Committees – Following the treasury report, a discussion of what each of the standing committees were occurred. It was decided that these committees were to apply solely to the upcoming WMSHC and not to the Young People's Convention in late July.

A. Standing Committees — By request, the duties of each of the standing committees were discussed. This information has already been disseminated with the meeting announcement. The committees were then established as people volunteered. They are as follows:

1. Publicity — Tim Eriksen (Head), Inga Knets, Jim Desmond, Sheila Kelley, Kshama Ananthapura, Allison Schofield, Cath Oss, Sherry
2. Housing — Eric Morgan (hotels), Cath Oss (Consultant)
3. Resolutions — Bradford, Eliza, Allison
4. Arranging — Kelly House (Head?), Laura Clawson, Kshama, Jeff (head?), Kara, (Max? Karen? Paula W.?) Lynn Debenedette (head?)
5. Welcoming — Linda (Head), Inga, Stephen S., Darlene J., Jim, Kara, Cath, Phil, Kshama, Kelsey, Eliza, Kitty, Allison, Donalyn, Minja
6. Memorial — Oona, Eliza (Head) Kara, Phil,
7. Food — Laura Clawson (Head), Linda, Sheila, Donalyn
8. Location — Laura Clawson, Cath, Allison, Linda, The Hookes, Kshama
9. Finance — Jeff, Kara (Head), Linda, Kshama

B. Potential Committees — Two potential committees were discussed. It was decided that there would simply be a contact for each. They are as follows:

10. Child Care — Kate Richardson
11. Transportation — Laura Clawson

IV. Insurance for Davis Ballroom — A suggestion was made to proceed to agenda item number 9 regarding the insurance for the Davis Ballroom.

A. A 1 million dollar policy is needed to secure this room.

B. If WMSHC becomes a group affiliate of the Country Dance and Song Society, it would be possible to acquire the insurance fairly inexpensively. \$70 for membership, \$125 for insurance.

C. The question of maintaining autonomy from the CDSS was raised. Given the time constraints of the impending convention, it was decided that Jeff and Kara would be given full authority to secure insurance and, thus, the Davis Ballroom. They were to have up to \$300 to secure the insurance.

(Note: Kara and Jeff secured the insurance from CDSS).

V. Association with other groups. A discussion point was brought up suggesting that WMSHC formalize an association with the Hooke's Regular Sing in Amherst and the Tuesday Night Sing in Northampton. The membership present decided to table this discussion until after the convention.

VI. Singing Schools — WMSHC will host several singing schools both prior to and after the convention. Two municipalities (Northampton and Leyden) have granted WMSHC some amount of funds (\$400) in order to facilitate the singing school. The issue of hosting singing schools without town funding was raised. The membership present decided this was acceptable.

A. Places — Potential places to hold singing schools include: The Berkshire Mountain area, Greenfield, Springfield, UMASS, Hampshire College, 1<sup>st</sup> Congregational Church in Amherst, Unitarian Universalist church in Greenfield, Hardwick, Barre, Smith College, Storrowtown Village, Historic Northampton, and Sturbridge Village.

B. Curriculum — The issue of what to teach at these singing schools was left until the

present membership could poll the remaining singers in the area as to what they find interesting. It was decided to do this at the upcoming Hooke Sing in Amherst and the Tuesday night sings.

C. Singing school leaders — Because of the potentially large amount of singing schools, several members have offered to teach these singing schools. They include Tim Eriksen, Cath Oss, Jeff Colby, Eric Morgan, and, perhaps, Kelly House.

D. Laura Timmerman agreed to be the singing school coordinator.

E. It was noted that the post convention singing schools need to be a primary concern.

V. Shape-note demonstration groups — A concern of the present membership was reaching people who may not be able to make regular sings or a singing school. It was decided that to the extent possible, anyone who could would go to places to provide demonstrations of shape-note singing. These will be organized according to the opportunities which present themselves. It was suggested that assisted living centers and churches would be particularly useful places to go to.

VI. Media contacts — It was decided WMSHC would provide copies of CD's of the previous convention to media outlets that would be willing to announce the convention or any associated singing schools. Possible media outlets mentioned were: The Berkshire Mountain area, WRSI, WFCR, WAMC.

#### VII. Alternative Sing and Social

A. It was noted that alternative sings are important as they help to keep the tradition alive through the encouragement of composition. As such an alternative sing will be held Friday night, March 10. The place and time will be announced later.

B. Ruth and Richard Hooke will host the Saturday night social at their home.

VIII. Chaplain(s) — The duty of the chaplains will be to offer prayers at relevant times during the convention. A point was made that chaplains should feel free to express what they believe without feeling compelled to either change or "water-down" their comments. This was agreed to by general consensus. Chaplains suggested so far include: George Seiler, David Ivey, Eliza Cavanaugh, Cath Oss, Steven Bloyd, Peter Irvine, Tom Mousin, and Dan Herzler

The meeting was adjourned.